

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~accessing licensed~~ determining whether digital content is licensed, the method comprising:

maintaining licensing information on a server system;

using a URL address of a unit of digital content ~~on a server system to obtain~~
identify the location of the licensing information, ~~from a location separate from the~~
~~location of the digital content~~ the licensing information comprising information for
allowing a source to provide the unit of digital content; and

examining the licensing information to confirm that the source identified by the
URL address of the unit of digital content is licensed to be provided provide ~~by a source~~
~~identified by the URL address of the~~ unit of digital content.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~
~~according to Claim 1, wherein examining the licensing information to confirm that the~~
~~content is licensed~~ further includes:

determining a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information; and

comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the URL
address of the unit of digital content.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 2, wherein comparing further includes:

confirming that the unit of digital content is licensed by determining that the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 3, wherein the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL address of the content when the URL pattern matches the URL address of the unit of digital content.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 3, further including comprising:

responding to a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information that corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content by directing a client system to process and render the unit of digital content.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 1, wherein using the URL address of the unit of digital content to ~~obtain~~ identify the location of the licensing information further includes:

~~locating licensing information on the server by~~ determining at least one potential location for the licensing information on the server based on the URL address of the unit of digital content.

7. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 6, wherein the at least one potential location ~~determined for the~~ licensing information is through a root directory on the server or through a subdirectory on the server where the content resides.

8. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 7, further comprising:
searching through the root directory for the licensing information.

9. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 8, wherein,
if when licensing information is not found through the root directory, searching for the licensing information through the subdirectory where the content resides on the server; and
or if when licensing information found through the root directory does not correspond to the unit of digital content, ~~the method further including: searching for the licensing information~~ through the subdirectory where the unit of digital content resides on the server ~~for the licensing information~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~obtaining~~ identifying the location of licensing information is in response to a request, by a client system, to download the unit of digital content from the server.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 10, further comprising:

responding to the request by:
delivering the unit of digital content to the client system;
confirming that a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content; and
in response to confirming that the URL pattern corresponds to the URL addresses of the unit of digital content, processing and rendering the unit of digital content on the client system.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the licensing information includes a licensing key.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 12, wherein the license key is an encrypted text file.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 12, further comprising including:

overriding any other license key on the server when the license key is located through a root directory of the URL address of the unit of digital content.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 1, wherein examining the licensing information further includes:
determining whether the licensing information has been altered.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the licensing information further includes information pertaining to restrictions on processing of the unit of digital content.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the licensing information further includes information about a feature of the unit of digital content that is enabled or disabled.

18. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~accessing licensed digital content~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information indicates one or more URL addresses of licensed unit of digital content.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:
computer executable instructions₁ which respond to a request to download
licensed digital content by:
using a URL address of a unit of digital content to ~~obtain~~ identify the location of
the licensing information₁ ~~from a location which is separate from the location of the~~
~~digital content~~ the licensing information comprising information for allowing a source to
provide the unit of digital content; and
processing the licensing information to confirm that the source identified by the
URL address of the unit of digital content is licensed to be provided provide ~~by a source~~
~~identified by the URL address of the~~ unit of digital content.

20. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to of~~
Claim 19, wherein the instructions for processing the licensing ~~information to confirm~~
~~that the content is licensed~~ further includes instructions to:
determine a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information; and
compare the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the URL
address of the unit of digital content.

21. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to of~~
Claim 20, wherein the instructions to compare further include:
instructions to confirm that the unit of digital content is licensed by determining
that the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL
address of the unit of digital content.

22. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 21, wherein the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL address of the content when the URL pattern matches the URL address of the unit of digital content.

23. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 21, further ~~including~~ comprising:

responding to a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information that corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content by causing a client system to process the unit of digital content.

24. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for using the URL address of the unit of digital content to ~~obtain~~ identify the location of the licensing information further include:

~~instructions that locate licensing information on a server by determining~~
determine at least one potential location for the licensing information on the server based on the URL address of the unit of digital content.

25. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 24, wherein the potential location determined for the licensing information is located through a root directory on the server or through a subdirectory on the server where the unit of digital content resides.

26. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 25, further comprising:
instructions for searching through the root directory for the licensing information.

27. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 25, wherein, if when the licensing information is not found through the root directory, searching through the subdirectory where the unit of digital content resides on the server for the licensing information, ~~or if~~ and, when the licensing information found through the root directory does not correspond to the content, ~~further including:~~
searching through the subdirectory where the unit of digital content resides on the server for the licensing information.

28. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for ~~obtaining~~ identifying the location of licensing information are responsive to a request, from a client system, to download the unit of digital content from a server.

29. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 28, further comprising:

instructions for responding to the request by:

delivering the unit of digital content to the client;

confirming that a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content; and

responding to confirming that the URL pattern corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content by causing the client to process the unit of digital content.

30. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 19, wherein the licensing information further includes a license key.

31. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 30, wherein responding to the request further includes ~~including~~:

overriding any other license key on the server when the license key is located through a root directory of the URL address of the unit of digital content.

32. (Currently Amended) A The computer program product ~~according to~~ of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for processing the licensing information further include:

instructions that determine whether there are any restrictions on processing of the unit of digital content.

33. (Currently Amended) A software system to access licensed unit of digital content comprising:

a communications handler responsive to a request to download a licensed unit of digital content from a server computer system; and

a licensing manager, in communication with the communications handler, which uses a URL address of the unit of digital content on the server to ~~obtain~~ identify the location of licensing information from the server, the licensing information comprising information for allowing a source to provide the unit of digital content, the licensing manager examining the licensing information to confirm that the source identified by the URL address of the unit of digital content is licensed to ~~be provided~~ provide ~~by a source identified by the URL address of the~~ unit of digital content.

34. (Currently Amended) The A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 33, wherein the communications handler or the licensing manager is associated with a runtime environment executing on a client system.

35. (Currently Amended) The A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 33, wherein a client system initiates the request to download the unit of digital content from the server.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 33, wherein the licensing manager examines the licensing information to confirm that the unit of digital content is licensed by:

determining a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information; and

comparing the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information with the URL address of the unit of digital content.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 36, wherein the comparing further includes:

confirming, by the licensing manager, that the content is licensed when the URL pattern referenced in the licensing information corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 37, wherein the licensing manager responds to a URL pattern referenced in the licensing information₁ which corresponds to the URL address of the unit of digital content₁ by directing a client system to process the unit of digital content.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 33, wherein the licensing manager obtains the licensing information by determining at least one potential location for the licensing information on the server, the potential location being based on the URL address of the unit of digital content.

40. (Currently Amended) The A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 39, wherein the potential location is through a root directory on the server or a subdirectory on the server which is the same directory where the unit of digital content is stored.

41. (Currently Amended) The A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 40, wherein the licensing manager further includes:
a search routine to search through the root directory for the licensing information.

42. (Currently Amended) The A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 41, wherein, when if the licensing manager determines that licensing information is not found through the root directory, the search routine is directed to search the subdirectory which is the same directory where the content is stored, and, when the or ~~that~~ licensing information found through the root directory ~~des~~ does not correspond to the content, the search routine is directed to search the subdirectory, which is the same directory where the unit of digital content is stored.

43. (Currently Amended) The A software system ~~according to~~ of Claim 33, wherein the licensing manager further includes:
logic for forgoing processing of any other licensing information on the server when the licensing information is located through a root directory of the URL address of the unit of digital content.

44. (Currently Amended) The A software system according to of Claim 33, wherein the licensing manager examining the licensing information further includes determining whether there are any restrictions on processing of the unit of digital content.

45. (Currently Amended) A system ~~of~~ for accessing licensed unit of digital content comprising:

means for using a URL address of a unit of digital content on a server system to ~~obtain~~ locate licensing information, the licensing information comprising information for allowing a source to provide the unit of digital content from a location separate from the location of the digital content; and

means for examining the licensing information to confirm that the source identified by the URL address of the unit of digital content is licensed to ~~be provided~~ provide ~~by a source identified by the URL address~~ unit of the digital content.